

New Downtown Focus Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2015

Public Safety Building- 6:30 PM

In Attendance: Duncan Phyfe, Steve Coswell, Bob Fichtel, Patricia Frederick, Richard Wright, Noel McGonigle, Rosemarie Meissner

Absent: Kelly Hansen, Patricia Stewart

Introductions were made and members were asked to volunteer for the position of secretary. Duncan Phyfe and Rosemarie Meissner volunteered to both take notes that would be compiled together on Google Docs.

Duncan Phyfe started the meeting with a discussion of the Committee's Mission Statement. Bob Fichtel suggested we add members of the Zoning and Planning Boards. Rosemarie Meissner agreed. It is her understanding that these Boards as well as the Building Inspector have input, police and decide on signage, trash, water and sewer hookups, permits, etc. All items that impact economic development.

Discussion followed on the geographic definition of Downtown. Duncan Phyfe suggested it include the Downtown Historic District as well as the feeder roads. It was also suggested zoning maps be consulted. We need to look at how large an area the Committee focuses its efforts.

Rosemarie Meissner mentioned that there are a number of plans/studies re: Downtown including the 2007 Downtown Focus Committee Charrette report. She added that it is important that the new Downtown Focus Committee work towards plan implementation through sharing of its vision and community engagement. The discussion continued and included topics such as the building of community spirit and how the plan would be funded (CDBG, private and public funding/grants). Members brainstormed re: improvements that could be made with little or no funding.

The next meeting was set for Monday evening, January 11 at the Public Safety Building.